THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Mr. Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States visited New Delhi on 21—22 January, 2002.

(b) and (c) The visit was part of the ongoing cooperation between India and the United States in counter-terrorism, including in the context of the attack on Parliament on 13th December. The two sides discussed all aspects of the global campaign against terrorism. They agreed to further strengthen and streamline sharing of information and cooperation in terrorism-related investigations between the agencies of the two countries. They also expressed hope for early ratification of the bilateral Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. In addition to cooperation in investigations and information exchange, FBI is sharing its expertise with Indian officials in protective, preventive and investigative aspects of counter-terrorism efforts.

Allotment of rice at BPL rates

*269. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allot five kg. rice per head per month at BPL rates in addition to the States BPL Quota to destitute children, schools for physically handicapped, old age houses and other related institutions sponsored by the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to allocate 6000 MT rice at the BPL rates; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) The Government has decided, *inter alia*, that foodgrains at BPL rates may be allotted to the State Governments at the rate of 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as Beggar Homes, Nari Niketans, etc., sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India.

(b) A communication was received from the State Government stating that out of the Above Poverty Line (APL) allocation of rice made by the Government of India in its favour, the State Government was allocating 6000 tonnes of rice per month as detailed below:

(figures in tonnes)

Sl. No.	Scheme	Quantity per month
1.	Hostels run/recognised by the Department of Social Welfare/Department of Backward Classes/Department of Minorities at the rate of 10 kg. per inmate per month.	2000
2.	Anganwadi Centres run by the Department of Women and Child Development	3500
3.	Old age homes/destitute homes	500
	TOTAL:	6000

The request made by the State Government was that the allotment of 6000 tonnes of rice per month for the above schemes be made at the BPL rates.

(c) 36450 tonnes of foodgrains at BPL rates have already been allocated to the State Government for SC/ST/OBC hostels for the

year 2001-02, keeping in view the number of inmates and the scale of issue. The State Government has also been allocated 36420 tonnes of rice and 37000 tonnes of wheat under the wheat based Nutrition Programme under the Integrated Child Develoment Services (ICDS) Programme for the year 2001-02. The request regarding allocation of foodgrains for old age homes/destitute homes will be considered on receipt of detailed information from the State Government.

Foodgrain stocks

*270. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the buffer stock position of foodgrains at the end of 2001 and procurement target during 2002;

(b) the estimated loss of foodgrains during 2001 in comparison to the loss during 1999;

(c) whether Government have considered the possibility of the existing food security system to manage storage of foodgrains in the warehouses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any change in the procurement and distribution policy is contemplated by Government to minimise the annual losses of foodgrains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) As on December 31, 2001, 581.12 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were available in the Central Pool.

The procurement operations are voluntary in nature and the farmers have the choice to sell their produce to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) or State Governments or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Hence, no targets are fixed for the purpose of procurement.

(b) As against the loss of 4.49 lakh tonnes expected during